

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, March 21, 1861.

Notice.

Mr. JAS. STUBBS our agent, is now engaged in canvassing for the Maine Farmer, in Lincoln and Knox counties. Mr. HIRSH P. WILKIN, in Androscoggin County. Mr. BENJ. TUCKER, in Androscoggin County.

The Growth of Maine.

While the census taken last year shows the increase of population in this State for the last ten years to be less than one per cent a year, we think the figures do not give a fair adequate idea of the progress of the State during that time. We are aware that, generally speaking, the increase or decrease of population in a State or country will indicate its progress or mark its decline; but like all other general rules it has its exceptions. Special or extraordinary causes and events may interfere, producing results different from those ordinarily expected.

There have been several reasons why the increase of population in this State for the last ten years has been less than ever before during the present century. In the first place, the discovery of gold in California occurred but a short time previous to 1850. This discovery was the means of drawing away thousands of our people every year. We have no means of ascertaining the exact number who have emigrated to California and the Pacific coast above that State, since 1850, but it must be very large. The persons who thus leave are mostly our most vigorous and active men, in the prime of life, thus taking the very life blood of our population by robbing us of a large share of the producing classes of the community.

Another serious drawback which operated very much to our prejudice from 1850 to 1858, was the emigration from Maine to the Western States. This cause also drew away from our State a great many of our people during the first seven or eight years of the ten; and the evil was greatly increased by the mania for speculation in lands that for several years was prevalent in the West. This alluring temptation was the means of taking out of the State large amounts of capital, that was in fact needed to carry on our business at home, and which is now fast locked up where much of it will hardly be available for years to come.

Again, the revolution of 1850, and the still more general and disastrous one of 1857, fell with peculiar severity upon some of the more important of our pursuits and interests, ruining many, and affecting the business of many thousands of our people. These were men who were in active business, and who belonged to the most enterprising class of our people and the disasters which would ruin them, could not fail to be severely felt by the State at large. These troubles were intensified by the fact that so much capital had been withdrawn from the State by emigrants to California and the West, and by the speculation before alluded to.

But after all these drawbacks and disadvantages, and in spite of them all, the State has prospered and increased in a much greater ratio than the number of our people.

Take for instance the farmers of Maine, who represent her largest interest, and comprise the most numerous class of her sons, and compare their condition, in all respects, with that in which they were in 1850, and a marked and notable improvement is at once apparent. The state of their farms, and their improved methods of cultivation, the condition of their houses and buildings, the improved breeds of stock and the greater attention paid to selection and rearing, the increased attention to, and greater interest in every thing that tends to improve their own condition, the increased facilities afforded in many parts of the State for reaching a market, all these things, and many others, show beyond a doubt, a very decided and gratifying advance in this the greatest and most important industrial pursuit of our people.

Never before, it is believed, were the large majority of our farmers so well off and so independent, as they are to-day. What is true of our farmers, is true, in greater or less degree, of many of the other branches of business, and of those engaged in them. Our manufacturers are steadily increasing in amount and variety—and we hope and believe the next ten years will show a still greater and more gratifying advance in all branches of business than has been known for a long time.

AUGUSTA DIVIDES HIM. The papers speak of the resignation of his commission in the army by "Lieut. Frederic L. Childs, of Maine," and his acceptance of the position of a Colonel in the Confederate army. The Gardner Journal says he is a native of Augusta. For the honor of Augusta we hope and believe this is not the fact. We have made inquiry among those who were born and have been the longest resident here, and can discover no link, either of birth or affinity, which connects him with any family in this city.

The Portland Advertiser finds by reference to the Army Register, that although born in Maine, he was appointed from North Carolina in 1855 or 1856. We presume no other portion of the State will be willing to acknowledge the nativity of the man, who, apparently for the base motive of promotion merely, thus casts off allegiance to his country and arrays himself under a hostile flag.

DIPHTHERIA IN OXFORD COUNTY. This disease is now making a fearful visitation in Oxford county. A correspondent sends us a touching account of the sickness and death of two children of Mr. Merriek J. Rowe, of North Woodstock, aged respectively 12 and 11 years. We are sorry not to be able to afford space for the narrative of this most and patient endurance of this terrible disease by these children, and the Christian faith and trust with which they awaited the summons of release from earth.

The same correspondent mentions the death, from the same disease, of an entire family of six children of Newell F. Rowe, of North Woodstock, three girls and three boys, between the ages of 4 and 14 years, all within the space of twenty-three days. Mr. Thaddeus R. Knight also lost his entire family of children, three little girls; Alva Judkins, two children; Edmund E. Landers one; J. M. Gallison, one—all of North Woodstock.

CORRECTION. A subscriber writes us contradicting the statement made in our paper last week on the authority of a resident of Pittsford, that a bottle of rum was found near the body of Daniel Huff, who was found dead in the road. The writer states that the unfortunate man walked from Edgecomb to Pittsford village on the day of his death. At 6 o'clock P. M., he started during the violent storm to go to the place, several miles distant, at which he had engaged to work, and where he was employed last summer. He was a man 62 years of age, poorly clad, and it is supposed, exhausted by his long day's travel, was unable to reach his destination, and laid down and perished. We are sorry to have misreported of the facts in the case, and hasten to make this correction.

KANSAS SUPPLIES. A dispatch dated Atchison, March 13, states that the Relief Committee have received over 50,000 bushels of seed wheat, about equal to the amount received previously. Ten thousand bushels were shipped on that day for Leavenworth, for distribution in Leavenworth and Douglas counties. The demand for potatoes for seed is very large, and there is a scarcity of good land. The supply of provisions is small, though applications are more pressing than ever.

Organization of the City Government.

The members elect of the City Council assembled in their respective rooms Monday, the 18th inst., at ten o'clock, for organization, and the qualifying oath was administered by the Mayor, James W. North, Esq.

The Common Council was organized by the choice of Jas. G. Phinney, Esq., of Ward 3, President, and Levi Page, Clerk.

The two branches then assembled in Convention and the Mayor elect, SYLVANUS CALDWELL, JR., Esq., having taken the required oath of office, proceeded to read the following:

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

We assemble this day in conformity with the act incorporating the City of Augusta, which requires the Municipal Government to be reorganized and renewed once a year. At such a period it is a matter of course, as well as propriety, to proceed to complete the work of organization, that a word should be spoken by him who is called by the suffrages of his fellow citizens to preside over the body.

It is my duty to call attention to the fact that I cannot bring to the work a knowledge and experience equal to my purpose and desire to do right. I trust however that I may conduct the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the people, and I believe that the City has received no detriment at my hands.

For the last four years, we have had at the head of the City Government, one who has been a honor to the office, and has done its duties with great credit to himself. Under his administration the affairs have been admirably managed, and he retires with the best wishes of this whole community. The City has been well governed, and the duties of the office have been performed with the most successful results.

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Legislative Summary.

On Tuesday, March 12, the resolve in favor of Messrs. Adams & O'Brien, relative to State Prison affairs, which had been passed to be engrossed, came from the House amended, so as to refer the claim to the Governor and Council. The Senate non-concurred, and the resolve was recommitted to the Judiciary Committee.

The resolve providing for a geological and scientific survey of the State was passed to be engrossed.

The resolves for the appointment of the State for Representatives to Congress, and for State Senators and Representatives were passed to be engrossed.

A resolve was introduced by Mr. Granger appropriating \$250 for a copy of Stuart's portrait of Gen. Knox, to be placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol. The rules were suspended and the resolve was passed.

In the House, the Militia Bill was finally killed.

The bill explanatory of the act for the suppression of tipping houses, declaring ale, beer, &c., intoxicating liquors, was passed to be engrossed.

The resolve for the appointment of Senators and Representatives after a protracted debate and the rejection of several amendments, passed to be engrossed—86 to 26.

On Wednesday, 13th, in the Senate, the bill authorizing a re-location of the Kennebec & Portland Railroad over the Deering estate so as to connect directly with the P. & S. R. road, was indefinitely postponed. It is understood that a satisfactory arrangement has been effected between the parties, for the accomplishment of the object sought, making further legislation unnecessary on the subject.

In the House, the resolve in aid of the Canada road was passed to be engrossed; also resolves to complete road in township No. 3, Range 4, and in favor of Megantic road in Oxford County.

The resolve in favor of a geological survey of the State was indefinitely postponed.

Chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes was so amended as to reduce the salary of the Superintendent of Common Schools from \$1200 to \$1000.

On Thursday, 14th, in the Senate, resolve authorizing the suspension of the annual fairs of the State Agricultural Society was passed to be engrossed. The same resolve was indefinitely postponed in the House.

In the House, the bill to prevent imposition upon Town Agents for the sale of liquors for medicinal and mechanical purposes was refused a passage.

The resolve for the purchase of a portrait of Gen. Knox was amended by reducing the sum named to \$100 and then passed to be engrossed.

The bill for the repeal of the Personal Liberty Law, on motion of Mr. Miliken was amended by restricting the original phraseology of the act, which forbade officers of the State in their official capacity to interfere for the arrest of fugitive slaves. The bill as amended was passed to be engrossed by a vote of 74 to 38.

On Friday, 15th, in the Senate, bill amendatory and explanatory of the liquor law, was refused a passage by a vote of 8 to 16.

The resolve authorizing the scientific survey of the State, came back from the House amended by reducing the appropriation from \$4000 to \$3000. The Senate concurred and passed the resolve to be engrossed.

In the House, the bill for the repeal of the Personal Liberty Law, as amended, came back from the Senate, that body insisting on its vote to repeal the law. The House insisted on its vote to amend, 79 to 7. Subsequently, conferees having been appointed by both branches, and no agreement reached, the House voted to adhere to its vote amending the bill, 67 to 48.

On Saturday, 16th, in the Senate, a bill was reported substantially in accordance with the amendment to the Personal Liberty Law which had passed the House, and the same was read twice and passed to be engrossed.

A joint committee having been appointed to notify the Governor that the Legislature had transacted its business and was now ready to adjourn, the Governor transmitted by the Secretary of State a list of 171 Acts and 93 Resolves passed at the present session and approved by him.

The usual votes of thanks to the President and other officers of the Senate were passed, farewell speeches were made by Messrs. Vinton, Andrews and Kennedy, and responded to by Mr. Goodnow, and at 10 o'clock, A. M., the Senate adjourned sine die.

In the House, the bill to amend the Personal Liberty Law so as to make it conformable to the Constitution of the United States or any law of the United States in pursuance thereof, came from the Senate, and the same was passed to be engrossed.

Mr. Gould of Thomaston presented a vote of thanks, prefaced by appropriate remarks, to Jas. G. Blaine, Esq., for the able and competent performance of his duty as Speaker. Mr. McCallis advocated its passage and the vote was unanimously passed. Mr. Blaine briefly acknowledged the courtesy and the House adjourned.

Legislation of the THIRTY-SETH CONGRESS.

The following abstract embraces the principal acts of Legislation which passed the late Congress:

The act for the amendment of the Constitution forbidding any interference by Congress with the property of Slaves in the States where it now exists; the act for the admission of Kansas; three acts providing for the organization of the new Territories of Colorado, Decatur and Nevada. Colorado includes Pike's Peak, the famous gold region; it is made up from parts of Kansas, Nebraska and Utah Territories. Nevada will be composed of the western part of Utah and a part of California if that State consents. Decatur was a Territory of Slavery in the States where it now exists; it is made up from parts of Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, South and west by Nebraska.

The most important measure of the session is the new tariff act, the exact provisions of which are still in doubt. The new tariff act authorizes a ten million loan.

The act amendatory of the patent law extends the term for patents from fourteen to seventeen years; and prohibits all extensions after that period, and authorizes the process to obtain evidence; revises the tariff of fees; authorizes models to be dispensed with when unnecessary; abolishes discriminations among citizens and foreigners in relation to patents; and prohibits all laws to not discriminate against our citizens.

The several appropriation bills were passed. They are as follows: 1. Invalid and other pensions; 2. Military Academy; 3. Army; 4. Navy; 5. Post Office; 6. Indians; 7. Consular and Diplomatic; 8. Executive, Legislative and Judicial; 9. "Sundry civil expenses," more commonly called "miscellaneous." The appropriations made at this session, is admitted, are mostly of moderate amount. Among the appropriations are the following: Repairs, improvements and new machinery at the armory at Springfield, about \$200,000; for work at various arsenals about \$100,000; for the purchase of arms at Watertown, Mass.; Fort Knox, Pensacola river, Me., \$200,000; Fort upon Hog Island ledge, Portland, Me., \$200,000; Fort Winthrop, Governor's Island, New York Harbor, Mass., \$100,000; Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., \$50,000; Fort at entrance of New Bedford Harbor, Mass., \$25,000. The navy appropriation act, besides the usual appropriations, contains a provision for the purchase of seven new war steamers.

The post office appropriation bill authorizes the Post Master General to furnish letter sheets with postage stamps, and to combine in one the sheet and the envelope.

The following new rates are established for ship letters: Every letter or packet brought to the United States by private ship or vessel, shall be charged with five cents postage if delivered at the Post Office where it arrives, and if destined to be carried by mail to another port, the charge shall be increased to ten cents. The ordinary rates of postage; provided that, upon all letters or packets conveyed in whole or in part by steamers or steamships over any route upon which the mail is regularly conveyed in other vessels, under contract with the Post Office Department, the same charges shall be levied, with the addition of two cents per letter or packet, as would have been levied if the letter or packet had been transmitted regularly through the mail.

Among the other provisions in the Post Office Appropriation bill are: Engravings, lithographic or photographic prints on rollers or in paper covers, books, bound or unbound, photographic paper and letter envelopes shall be deemed mailable matter and carried by postage by express or otherwise, at the same rate as ordinary letters, except that the postage on any such matter shall not exceed four cents per pound.

Cards blank or printed; blanks in packages weighing eight ounces; seeds or cuttings in packages weighing not exceeding one ounce, shall also be deemed mailable matter, and charged with postage at the rates last mentioned for maps, books, &c.

There are various other laws and parts of laws which are of more limited interest. Included in one of the appropriation bills is an appropriation of \$100,000, to enable the President of the United States to employ a fleet of two coast and cutter, over 1500 miles—to be prepaid by postage stamps.

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Latest Telegraphic News.

NEW YORK, 18th. The correspondent of the Herald at Charleston says the new tariff and one of the floating batteries will be moved on Monday, but not towards Fort Sumter.

A Washington dispatch to the Herald says that Major Anderson has informed the Government that if reinforcements should be sent to the fort, he would immediately fire the cannons, and render communication by water impossible. The Cabinet are considering measures relative to the seizure of the revenue cutter by Texas. It is understood that the Administration has sent secret agents to different European Governments, to inform them of the future policy of the Government, thus forestalling and defeating the object of the Southern Confederacy in sending their emissaries abroad.

The same course is to be pursued relative to Mexico. The Cabinet, as soon as the Southern forts are fair to be taken, will take into consideration the collection of the revenue. All are known to be it should be collected, but the manner of doing it is the trouble.

WASHINGTON, March 16th. Dispatches from Pensacola and other Southern ports, state that the capture of the Brooklyn has been notified that if attempts to land provisions at Fort Pickens will be fired into. An engagement is anticipated. News from the forts at Forts Brown and Ringgold, and the barracks at Brazos and San Antonio, have virtually been surrendered to the Texas authorities. The entire evacuation will occur on the 20th, when possession will be taken by the Texas troops, who are estimated for six months.

A resolution tendering the thanks of the State to Gen. Twiggs passed in the Convention. An ordinance submitting the permanent Constitution of the Southern Confederacy to a vote of the people, was defeated in the Convention. Col. Ben. McCulloch passed through Mobile on Saturday en route to Richmond, to purchase arms for Texas. He also goes to Montgomery to induce the States to order a regiment of mounted riflemen for the protection of the frontier.

MONTGOMERY, March 16. Congress adjourned to-night till the second Monday in May. WASHINGTON, March 18. The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate: Charles F. Adams of Mass., for Minister to England; Geo. H. March of Vermont, for Minister to Sardinia; James W. Webb of New York, Minister to Turkey; William L. Dayton of New Jersey, Minister to France. The last named was immediately confirmed.

Summary of Political Intelligence. WASHINGTON, March 18. General Scott's official opinion on the evacuation of Fort Sumter is based upon a report made by Gen. Totten, of the Engineer Corps, that Fort Sumter is surrounded by a concentric circle of strong fortifications; and also upon a report by Capt. Ward of the Navy, stating the risks and inevitable slaughter attending upon an attempt to reinforce the fort by water.

Western Republicans are unwilling to submit to this military necessity, but no way is proposed to avoid it by reinforcing. It with means the disposal of the Government, before Major Anderson's forces would be reduced by starvation. The Tribune correspondent says that Fort Pickens will not be given up, but reinforced. The fort is surrounded by a concentric circle of strong fortifications; and also upon a report by Capt. Ward of the Navy, stating the risks and inevitable slaughter attending upon an attempt to reinforce the fort by water.

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Congress

NEW YORK, 18th. The correspondent of the Herald at Charleston says the new tariff and one of the floating batteries will be moved on Monday, but not towards Fort Sumter.

A Washington dispatch to the Herald says that Major Anderson has informed the Government that if reinforcements should be sent to the fort, he would immediately fire the cannons, and render communication by water impossible. The Cabinet are considering measures relative to the seizure of the revenue cutter by Texas. It is understood that the Administration has sent secret agents to different European Governments, to inform them of the future policy of the Government, thus forestalling and defeating the object of the Southern Confederacy in sending their emissaries abroad.

The same course is to be pursued relative to Mexico. The Cabinet, as soon as the Southern forts are fair to be taken,
